An Innovative Home Health Care Classification System for Managing Managed Care

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An innovative Home Health Care Classification (HHCC) System for Managed Care has been designed to document care protocols for home health care patients. The HHCC System translates clinical nursing parameters, medical parameters, and socio-demographic data into care protocols which predict care needs, track, and measure the outcomes of home health care.

The HHCC System is based on a conceptual framework using the nursing process to provide care to patients based on a holistic approach. The HHCC System consists of a methodology and a nomenclature. The methodology tracks the care process over time, whereas the nomenclature codes, indexes, and classifies the care process.

The Care Protocols are derived from a standardized computer-assisted assessment platform. The intake assessment screens obtain the information needed to satisfy the payment requirements. They consist of a series of user-friendly menus which collect the appropriate data needed to generate the federal and/or third party payers information/ requirements in order to obtain approval for the "start-of-service." The same intake data are also used to provide nursing care protocols which predict care requirements.

The care protocols are structured according to the nursing process using the HHCC System's nomenclature. The care protocols must be validated and once validated by the assessment nurse are used to document and track the care process for the entire episode of care.

The HHCC System nomenclature consists of six data dictionaries, coded according to the ICD-10 structure. They include: (a) 20 Care Components to assess; (b) 145 Nursing Diagnoses to diagnose;(c) 3 Expected Outcomes to identify outcome measures; (d) 160 Nursing Interventions to plan care; (e) 4 Intervention Actions to provide care; and (f) 3 Actual Outcomes to evaluate the outcomes of care for the home health care of the managed care patients.

The HHCC System runs on a pen-based computer to facilitate ease of use for data collection at the point-of-care in the home setting. The data once collected are downloaded to a workstation /computer in the home health agency office where the patients' databases are stored. The HHCC System is programmed in a Windows-based language and is also available for other microcomputer configurations.